

Environmental Restoration Project



Area of Concern (AOC) No. 1081: Building 6650 Septic System, TA-III

ADS: 1295

Operable Unit: Septic Tanks and Drainfields

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Site History

Historical SNL/NM Facilities Engineering drawings indicate that two individual septic systems were present at this site. Each system consisted of a septic tank connected to a pair of seepage pits and were located west of the northwest corner of Building 6650, in TA-III. It is assumed that an original (northern) system was constructed, and then at some point was apparently augmented or replaced by a second (southern) system. It is also assumed that these systems were abandoned in the early 1990s when the City of Albuquerque sanitary sewer system was extended into TA-III. No other historical research has been conducted for this site.

Constituents of Concern

Constituents of concern for this site are unknown.

Current Hazards

No known surface hazards have been identified. Environmental characterization has not been conducted at the site; therefore potential subsurface environmental hazards are unknown.

Current Status of Work

Samples were collected from the (assume southern) septic tank in 1992 and 1995 for waste characterization purposes. Residual tank contents were pumped out from the southern tank and the tank cleaned in February 1996. No information has been found to indicate that samples or residual effluent (if any) have been removed from the north septic tank.

A field inspection at the site was conducted in September 1999 and the two systems were located and determined or assumed to be intact at that time. There was no access manhole or surface expression found for the northern septic tank, but the apparent tank location was marked by yellow guard posts and was in agreement with the location for that tank shown on engineering drawings. The southern system septic tank was located inside of the facility perimeter fence, and in the parking lot on the west side of Building 6650. All four seepage pits were intact at that time.

To determine if environmental contamination is present beneath this system and in accordance with agreements reached with NMED personnel, additional sampling was conducted at this site. As shown on the site map, passive soil vapor samplers were installed at seven locations around the septic system in April 2002 to detect the presence or absence of VOCs at the site. A single soil sample boring was also drilled directly beneath each of the four seepage pits at this site in August 2002. Soil samples collected from these borings were analyzed for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), semi-volatile organic compounds (SVOCs), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), total cyanide, high explosive (HE) compounds, metals, and radionuclides.

Future Work Planned

This site may be selected for deeper environmental characterization sampling if analytical results from the shallow sampling indicate potentially significant contamination at depth.

Waste Volume Estimated/Generated

A total of 710 gallons of effluent (including introduced water added to facilitate pumping) was removed from the southern septic tank in February 1996. No environmental characterization or remediation waste has been generated at the site to date.

Information for ER Site 1081 was last updated Jan 20, 2003.